

Early Hotels in Lehi: David Evans

New York Herald June 1858

The first two innkeepers in Lehi were Abram Hatch and Bishop David Evans who opened a portion of their home to travelers. A special correspondent for the New York Herald wrote what it was like to spend a night at Bishop Evan's place in June 1858:

“Bishop Evans was our host: he is the highest church dignitary in the place and keeps a sort of hotel. The bishop is a corpulent and sociable old man. A multitude of children are running about the house; they were very well behaved, made no noise, kept out of the way and bore a very retiring disposition; they took care of each other, the elder ones acting as matrons for their younger relatives.

We did not ask the corpulent bishop the number of his spirituals, nor did he instruct us upon that point; so we were left in unhappy ignorance. Several women were moving around the house. It was very easy to distinguish the old one lady who claimed priority as mater families. There were three quite young women, who worked about the house more quiet than tongue-tied servants. Whether they were some of his ‘better halves,’ we were unable to decipher, even after comparing notes.

The Saintly Bishop must however, have a harem of no small dimensions to generate such a vast juvenile population. The children all looked well, fat, and hardy. The three young women, before alluded to, had a sort of iron bound countenance, which is almost indescribable: but more of that anon. At night we lit upon a feather bed I had laid on for 60 consecutive nights.”

-New York Herald- June 1858